

OFFICE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY, TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

State Attorney Jerry Hill

Polk, Highlands, and Hardee Counties

Main Office

255 North Broadway Avenue, 2nd Floor
Drawer SA, P.O. Box 9000
Bartow, Florida 33831-9000 • (863) 534-4800
www.sao10.com



Lakeland Branch Office

930 East Parker Street, Suite 238
Lakeland, Florida 33801 • (863) 802-6240

Winter Haven Branch Office

3425 Lake Alfred Road 9, Gill Jones Plaza
Winter Haven, Florida 33881 • (863) 401-2477

June 25, 2013

Chief Lisa Womack
Lakeland Police Department
219 N. Massachusetts Ave.
Lakeland, FL 33801

RE: Lakeland Police Department Investigation

Dear Chief Womack:

On April 9, 2013, my office received a referral from FDLE regarding an employee at the Lakeland Police Department who made allegations of repeated sexual activity with LPD officers, both on and off duty. We met with the FDLE agents and reviewed the preliminary investigation conducted by FDLE. We determined that further investigation was warranted. Over the last twelve weeks, my office has conducted an investigation into the matter. As of today, that investigation is completed and I enclose the final report with this letter. Let me note the obvious. The Lakeland Police Department has many fine, dedicated officers. However, this report details activities involving officers that would sully the name and reputation of the entire department.

Through the course of the investigation, my investigators interviewed 19 people, including 11 current or former sworn LPD officers. Additional interviews were conducted with two city employees. In addition to the interviews, my investigators reviewed evidence and extensive documentation. At the conclusion of the investigation, my office makes the following findings of facts:

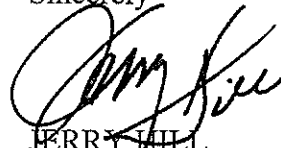
1. As many as ten sworn LPD officers have engaged in sex acts and sexually suggestive behavior while on duty over the past seven years with an LPD civilian employee. The sex acts occurred, among other places, at the Lakeland Police Department, other City of Lakeland Municipal Buildings, in Lakeland Police Department patrol cars, in city parks and on private property.
2. While there were also allegations of LPD officers engaging in sex acts with the LPD civilian employee off duty and in other jurisdictions, the focus of this investigation was for on duty actions of the officers.

3. Of the ten current or former officers who engaged in sex acts or sexually suggestive behavior, five are supervisors and ranked members of LPD.
4. Seven sworn current or former officers admitted, under oath, to the allegations of the LPD civilian employee. Two sworn officers partially admitted and partially denied, under oath, the allegations of the LPD civilian employee. One sworn officer denied, under oath, the allegations of the LPD civilian employee.
5. We question the credibility of three LPD sergeants, Bryan McNabb, Rusty Longaberger and David Woolverton. I will not use their testimony pending the outcome of the internal affairs investigation. We will, in light of your determination and fact finding, make a final decision.
6. Not only are the officers directly involved in this matter at fault. There were other LPD employees who knew about what was going on during this time period, but declined to get involved and stop it.

I cannot ignore the fact that several of the officers involved in this matter are high ranking officers in your department. Some of the officers were directly responsible for training other officers at LPD. Perhaps this investigation sheds some light on the serious shortcomings of your department in the areas of traffic stops, search and seizure, thoroughness of investigations, preparedness for trial and complying with Florida Public Records law. Had these members of your department been more focused on the important responsibilities of law enforcement, rather than pursuing sexual encounters with a civilian analyst, the LPD might not be in the condition it is today.

As the State Attorney, it is critical to my office that the Tenth Judicial Circuit's largest municipality has a law enforcement agency that is competent, knowledgeable and respectful of the law. I call on the City of Lakeland leaders to immediately take steps to provide Lakeland with law enforcement that is truly "Committed to Excellence."

Sincerely



JERRY HILL
State Attorney